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Regulated Self-Regulation An Approach for Shared Responsibilities

Dr Joachim Kind, M.A. LMK - The State Media Authority of Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany EU-Safer Internet Centre Germany / klicksafe



Agenda

- Introduction saferinternet.de
- German State Media Authorities: Remits and Organisational Structure
- Protection of Minors in the Media: The German Approach
- The Legal Background
- In Practice: Control Procedure & Assessment
- Case Studies
- Conclusion and Prospects



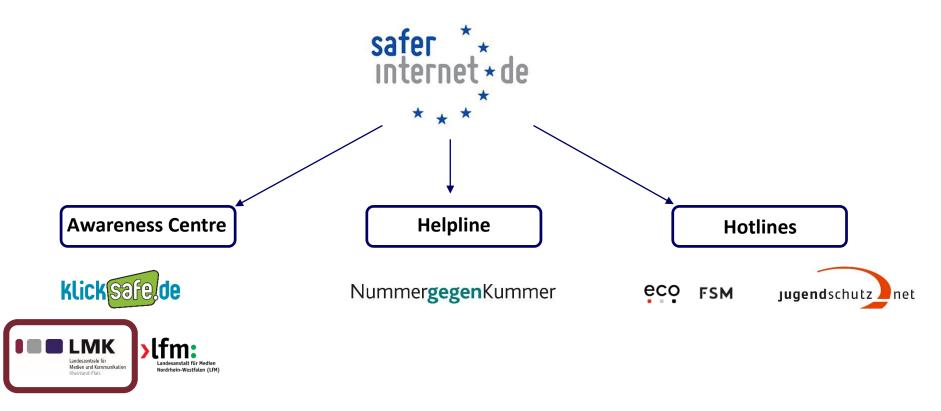
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Safer Internet Centre Germany

 Part of Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), Telecom programme GD Connect, European Commission



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German State Media Authorities: Remits and Organisational Structure

Remits & Structure

- After WWII: Reorganisation German media system (dual broadcasting system)
 - Broadcasting lies within the competence of the federal States
 - \rightarrow To ensure independence from government!
- 14 State Media Authorities founded in the mid 1980s
- Original remit: Licensing, monitoring, structuring, and promoting commercial broadcasting in Germany
- 2003: Extension of field of activity to controlling telemedia
- During the last years: Promotion of media literacy as key responsibility of LMK



Overview





"die medienanstalten"

- Joint management office of media authorities ("die medienanstalten") located in Berlin
- Remit: Coordination of day-to-day business of decision-taking councils and commissions of state media authorities





"die medienanstalten"

- Cooperation conducted in decision-taking councils and commissions coordinating and aligning matters on a national level:
 - Commission on Licensing and Supervision (ZAK)
 - Conference of Chairpersons of the Decision Taking Councils (GVK)
 - Commission on Concentration in the Media (KEK)
 - Commission for the Protection of Minors in the Media (KJM)



"die medienanstalten"

- Commercial radio and commercial television broadcasters have to fulfil the requirements on content as specified in the Interstate Treaty on Broadcasting and Telemedia
- Telemedia: Media authorities are responsible for ensuring that specific requirements are met, for instance, regarding the protection of minors



Protection of Minors in the Media: The German Approach

Division of Competences

Online & Offline Media

For films and games

(data media/physical media):

Protection of Young Persons Act

(JuSchG)

For telemedia and broadcasting:

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Interstate Treaty on the Protection of

Minors in the Media (JMStV)



German federation

Federal Department For Media Harmful to Young People



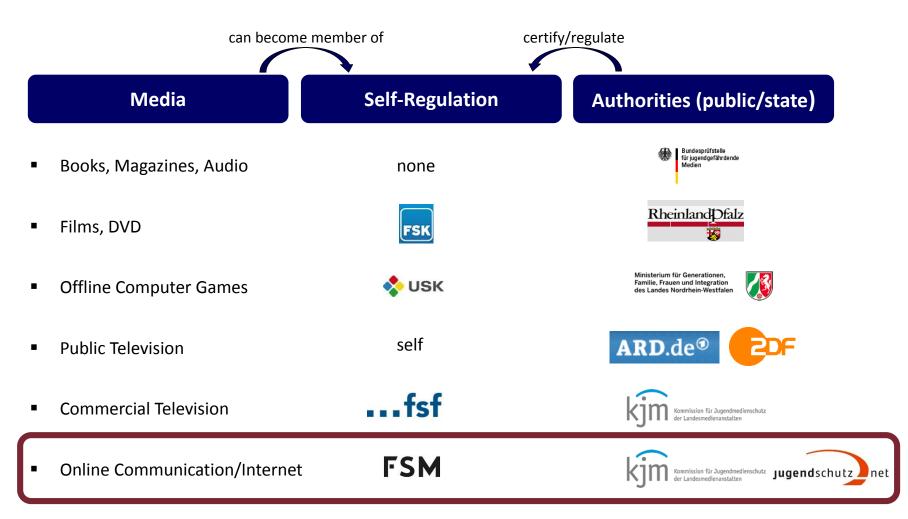
States/Länder

State Media Authorities



System of "Regulated Self-Regulation"

General Overview



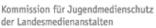
Regulatory Bodies

KJM & Jugendschutz.net

- Commission for the Protection of Minors (KJM)
 - Acts on behalf of the State Media Authorities
 - Decides on violation/non- violation of JMStV and on sanctions
 - Acknowledges Voluntary Self-Monitoring organisations
 - Certifies systems for age verification, definition for closed user groups
 - Certifies technical solutions protection for minors online

- Jugendschutz.net (Protection if minors.net)
 - Organizationally bound to KJM
 - Control of Internet content and report receiving mechanism (hotline)
 - Quick removal of offences and transmission to supervisory bodies and law enforcement
 - Training and consulting (workshops)











Results & Achievements (2016)

KJM & Jugendschutz.net



- 120,000 online offerings were checked by jugendschutz.net
- 6,130 problematic issues were found, 94 cases were forwarded to the KJM
 - 38% political extremism
 - 21% pornographic content
 - 16% content harmful to young people
 - 13% depictions of sexual exploitation
 - 6% impairing content



Results & Achievements (2016)

KJM & Jugendschutz.net



- More than 7,000 cases were sent via online complaints mechanisms
- In 66% of the cases illegal content was quickly removed from the Internet by the intervention of jugendschutz.net
- In 9 out of 10 cases depictions of sexual exploitation could be quickly removed (Germany 100%, other countries 81%)

Voluntary Self-Regulation Organisation

Association of Voluntary Self-Regulating Multimedia Providers (FSM)

 Industry association of content/host/access providers (e.g. Telekom/Microsoft) FSM

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- Acknowledged as voluntary self-regulatory body by KJM
- In charge of assessment of online content and awarding rulings as to the conditions for putting it online (discretionary powers included: only members)
- Expert commission
- General advice on all questions regarding protection of minors

Results of Self-Regulation

Overview

- Self-Monitoring of Search Engine Providers (e.g., Google, Yahoo)
 - \rightarrow This kind of cooperation is unique throughout the world!
- Self-Monitoring of Mobile Phone Providers (e.g., T-Mobile, Vodafone)
- Self-Commitment of Mobile Phone Providers
- Self-Commitment of Chat Providers (e.g., codex)
- Network with climate of cooperative dialogue: Advisory Board Saferinternet.de

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 Network on contract level: klicksafe (LMK & Ifm), NummergegenKummer, Jugendschutz.net, internet-beschwerdestelle.de (ECO & FSM)



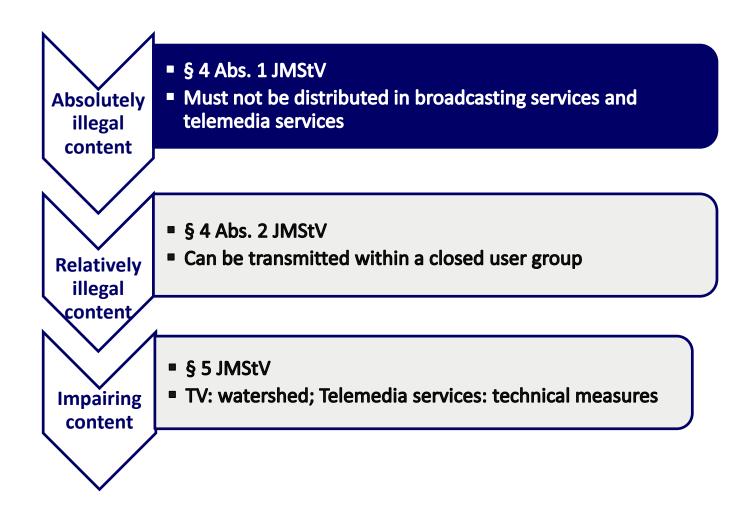
The Legal Background:

The Interstate Treaty on the Protection of

Human Dignity and the Protection of Minors

in Broadcasting and Telemedia





- Content being absolutely illegal (Art. 4)
 - Using insignia of organisations which are prohibited under the German Constitution,

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- Inciting to racial hatred
- Denying or playing down acts committed under the National Socialist regime,
- Presenting cruel or otherwise inhuman acts of **violence** against a person
- Glorifying war,
- Presenting children or adolescents in unnatural blatantly sexual poses (so-called posing, also applies to virtual presentations),
- Violating human dignity, especially by presenting persons who are dying or exposed to serious physical or mental suffering.
- Child pornography, violent pornography, pornography involving animals (also applies to virtual presentations)
- Certain content being indexed by the Federal Review Board for Media Harmful to Young People (parts B and D of the list)

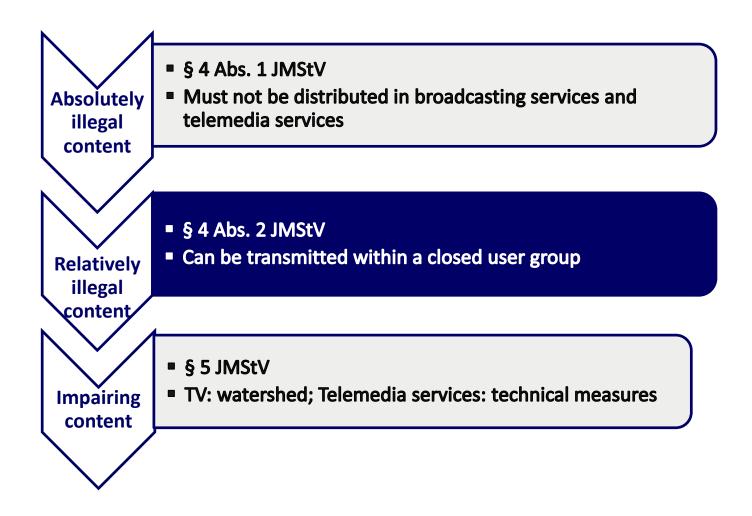


Example: Absolutely Illegal Content

Terrorist propaganda, beheadings, torture, extreme depictions of violence





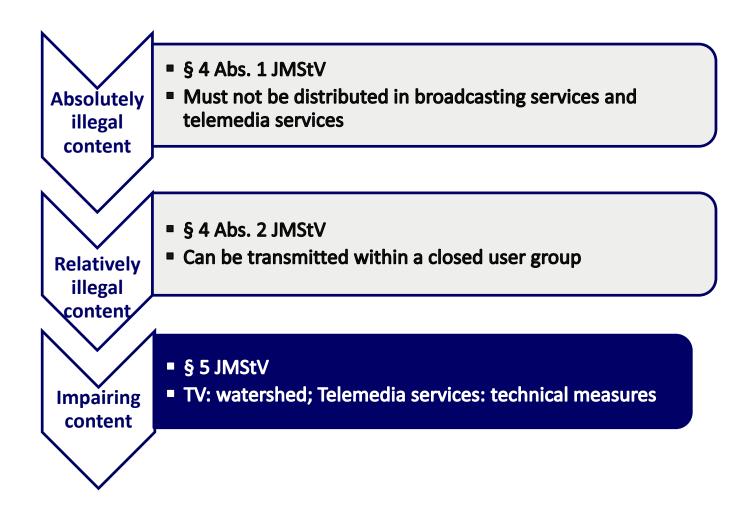


 Content being relatively illegal (Art 4 (2)) can be transmitted in telemedia services if the provider has ensured that such content is accessible for adult persons only (closed user group)

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- Pornographic content
- Certain indexed content (parts A and C of the list)
- Content classified as being seriously impairing





- Content impairing development (Art. 5)
 - Legal definition: Content which is suited to impair the development of children or adolescents into self-responsible and socially competent personalities

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- Providers shall ensure that children or adolescents of the relevant age groups do not normally see or hear such content (online: by technical measures/ TV: watershed)
- Watersheds in Germany
 - For some content rated **12 and up**, the watershed is between **20:00 and 06:00**
 - for content suitable for ages 16 and older between 22:00 and 06:00
 - for content suitable for adults (18 and older) between 23:00 and 06:00





In Practice:

Control Procedure & Assessment



Case Studies



Super Nanny

- Scripted reality show (with real persons)
- Broadcast by Commercial broadcaster RTL
- Super Nanny visits parents having problems in day-to-day education of their children





Super Nanny

- Human dignity takes priority: It ranks first both the Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations and in the German Constitution. It is also a key objective of the Interstate Treaty
- No human being may be treated like an object, be stripped of his or her rights, be exposed to inhumane and humiliating sanctions or treatments, be tortured or destroyed
- Due to its demands as an absolute value, the guarantee of human dignity requires careful assessment and explanation



Super Nanny

Assessment by KJM

- Show violates human dignity
- Children were physically and psychologically abused while being constantly beaten and shouted at in front of the camera
- Some of these scenes were repeatedly shown both in the trailer and during the show
- Show reduced children to mere objects for the voyeuristic satisfaction of the viewer, in showing their suffering, they were commercialized in an inadmissible way
- There was no justifiable public interest in such an intensive depiction of mistreatment



Bild.de Coverage on Syrian War





Bild.de Coverage on Syrian War

• Art 4 (1), S. 1 Nr. 8 JMStV

 "Without prejudice to any liability under the German Criminal Code, content is illegal if it violates human dignity, especially by presenting persons who are dying or who are or were exposed to serious physical or mental suffering while reporting actual facts without any justified public interest in such form of presentation or reporting being given."

Case Study 2 – Conflicting Rights

Bild.de Coverage on Syrian War

kim Human Dignity	Freedom of Press
 Photos violate human dignity Problematic: Publication of not- 	 Justified public interest in such form of presentation or reporting is given
pixelated photos of children being dead or seriously suffering; the suffering and the death of the children is publicly displayed and they are thereby degraded to mere objects of curiosity	 Decision of KJM is "horrible" and "wrong", we must raise the world's awareness for the cruelty of Assad's war Aim of the photos is to trigger outcry
 Another way of reporting would have 	and indignation
been possible without diminishing news value (for example by pixelating children's faces)	 Not the photos violate human dignity, but Assad's cruel warfare

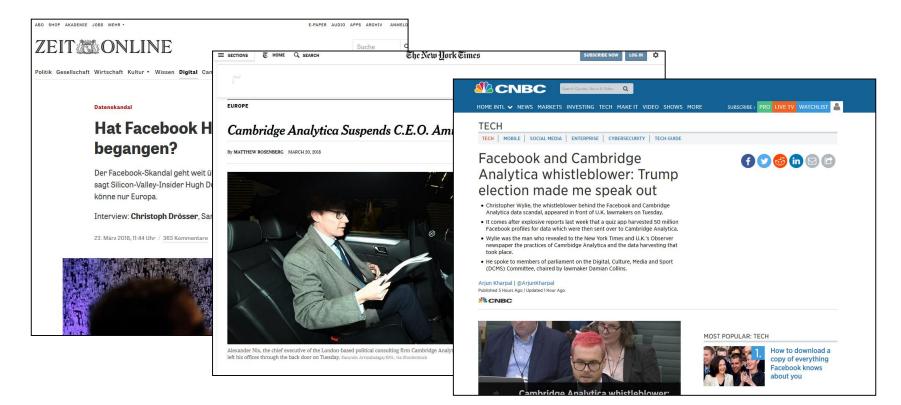


Conclusion and Prospects

Conclusion and Prospects

In general: The system works well.

HOWEVER: New Challenges!



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Legal Frameworks ... in progress

- Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD)
 - EU-wide coordination of national legislation on all audiovisual media, both traditional TV broadcasts and on-demand services
- European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services (ERGA)
 - Advises European Commission on the implementation of the European Union's Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD)
- Network Enforcement Act (NetzDG) German law 1 oct 2017
 - Combat hate speech and fake news
 - General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
 - Replaces the Data Protection Directive 95/46/EC
 - Designed to harmonize data privacy laws across Europe, to protect and empower all EU citizens data privacy and to reshape the way organizations across the region



What We Need...

- Regulation of media intermediaries, such as social networks and search engines?
 - State Media Authorities are currently assessing regulation options
 - Preliminary results recommend developing a new set of rules which:
 - establishes a code of conduct for media-intermediaries
 - while guaranteeing diversity

Some thoughts for the future (Economis, "Epic Fail", March 24th 2018)

- Tech firms need to open up to outsiders, safely and methodically
- Create an industry ombudsman: call it the Data Rights Board
- Set and enforce the rules by which accredited independent researchers lok side the platforms without threatening user's privacy –software -
- Board could act as a referee for complaints
- How does micro-targeted skew pol. campaigns?
- What biases infect facial-recognition algorithms?
- GDPR gives users more power to opt out of being tracked online



Thank you very much for your attention!

Dr Joachim Kind

Spokesman EU-Safer Internet Centre DE / klicksafe

LMK / Safer Internet DE / klicksafe Turmstraße 10 67059 Tel. 0621/5202-206 Fax. 0621/5202-209 E-Mail. <u>kind@lmk-online.de</u>

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